

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-05 /087 W

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R 161147Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6666

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 0531

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IV, AO

SUBJECT: COMMENTARY AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON OAU SUMMIT

SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. POSITION

REF (A) STATE 008555, (B) ABIDJAN 0435

1. REFTEL (B) SUMMARIZING RESTATEMENT OF IVORY COAST POSITION

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ON ANGOLA WAS SENT PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL (A) REQUESTING

REPORTING ON COMMENT AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN WAKE OF OAU SUMMIT SUPPORTIVE OF US POSITION. THIS CABLE ACCORDINGLY PROVIDES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND ON IVORY COAST POSITION.

2. IVORIAN POSITION ON ANGOLA AS HEADLINED IN JANUARY 14 FRATERNITE MATIN CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE CASE-FIRE, WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS, END TO ARMS SUPPLY, AND FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. AS SUCH, IVORIAN POSITION PARALLELS VIRTUALLY EXACTLY THAT OF UNITED STATES.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER USHER SPEECH AT OAU, ALSO CARRIED IN JANUARY 14 FRATERNITE MATIN, IS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF SOVIET INTERVENTION IN SEVERAL PLACES, SPEAKING OF "ARMS" OF STALIN" (SELF-PROPELLED ROCKETS) SENT FOR BLACKS TO KILL ONE ANOTHER, OF THE FACT THAT MILITARY AID IS SENT AS PART OF A GLOBAL STRATEGY, AND THT IT DOESN'T COME WITHOUT A PRICE. ANGOLA, SAID USHER, IS SCARECELY LIKELY TO BE STRONG ENOUGH TO THROW OFF THE "IRON COLLAR" OF SOVIET DOMINATION AS MAOIST CHINA WAS ABLE TO DO AFTER RECEIVING RUSSIAN AID IN ITS WAR OF LIBERATION.

4. REFERENCES TO UNITED STATES WERE LESS CRITICAL. USHER SAID WORLD IS CHARACTERIZED BY UNEASY EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN TWO SUPER-POWERS, US AND USSR. THIS IS ANOTHER REASON WHY VICTORY ON GROUND IN ANGOLA BY ONE FACTION WAS IMPOSSIBLE, FOR "WHERE RUSSIA IS, THERE AMERICA IS ALSO." AFRICA CAN ONLY SURVIVE BY STRUGGLING TO REMAIN FREE OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY AND BY EJECTING ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM ANGOLA. COMMENT: IVORY COAST POSITION AS THUS STATED IS IN KEEPING WITH INDICATIONS GIVEN DURING SCHAUFELÉ VISIT THAT GOIC WOULD TAKE POSITIN OF NEUTRALITY AND CONDEMN FOREIGN INTERVENTION FROM ALL SIDES. USHER SPEECH IS THEREFORE AS CLOSE AS GOIC CAN COME IN BEING PUBLICLY SUPPORTIVE OF US POSITION IN ANGOLA. CAREFUL READING OF USHER SPEECH LEAVES NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT BRUNT OF CONDEMNATION FALLS ON SOVIET INTERVENTION WHICH CAUSED US EFFORT TO MAINTAIN WORLD BALANCE OF POWER. SPEECH IS ALSO INTERESTING FOR ITS VERY GENTLE TREATMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA AS SUMMARIZED PARA 2H OF REF (B). THIS IS CONSISTENT BOTH WITH IVORY COAST'S WELL-KNOWN DIALOGUE POLICY AS WELL AS ITS PERCEPTION THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS INTERVENED IN ANGOLA TO COUNTER SOVIET DOMINATION
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RATHER THAN WITH PERMANENT COLONIAL INTENTIONS. END COMMENT.

5. JANUARY 14 FRATERNITE MATIN ALSO CARRIES REPORT FROM IVORIAN JOURNALIST KOUASSI YAO IN ADDIS ABABA THAT IVORY COAST LED MOVE TO BLOCK THE POSSIBILITY OF THE ADMISSION OF MPLA TO OAU MEMBERSHIP BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE BY INTRODUCING QUESTION ON THE "RECEIVABILITY" OF THE APPLICATION ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 23 OF OAU CHARTER.

6. EMBASSY FORWARDING (AF/W) COPY OF USHER SPEECH AND RELATED ARTICLES IN JANUARY 16 POUCH.

7. FOREIGN MINISTER USHER NOT EXPECTED RETURN ABIDJAN UNTIL WEEKEND. WILL SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH HIM AND/OR DELEGATION MEMBERS IN EFFORT LEARN ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON OAU SESSION.
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